



Grüss Gott

Stuttgart Officer and Civilian Spouses Club

March 2003 Newsletter



Grüss Gott;

Well, it's that time of year again, time for our annual Spring Bazaar. This is one of the most exciting and fun times of the year for our club. The Bazaar Committee has been working all year to prepare, what I think will be the best ever Spring Bazaar. There will be something for everyone at this event. We have added another tent for your shopping pleasure as well as additional food vendors and fun for the kiddies. Many of our old favorite vendors are back but many new ones have been added as well. Everything is in place to make this an outstanding event. But we won't be able to succeed without the help of all our members and everyone in the community. We need volunteers for every aspect of this event, from baking goodies for the vendors, to helping in the finance room, to working out on the sales floor. There really is a job to suit everyone's schedule and interest. I would also like to remind you that *every single penny of profit* goes to benefit this community. All of the donations that we give each year come directly from this event and the profits from our Thrift Shop. This amounts to many thousands of dollars each year. I think I can honestly say, that every family in the Stuttgart area benefits in some way from the donations made by our club. There are also benefits from volunteering. Everyone who volunteers gets a VIP shopping pass entitling them to shop early on Thursday and find the best treasures before the general public sees them. You also get to meet people and best of all feel good about what we, as an organization, are doing to help our community. It is not too late to sign up and be part of the fun. You can contact Laurie Menzel, our Bazaar Volunteer Coordinator, to reserve your spot on the Bazaar Team. We don't want to leave anyone out in this endeavor. I look forward to working and shopping with you March 21,22, and 23 at our Spring Bazaar.

Till then,
Donni



OCSC Governing Board Roster

President:	Donni Hodgkins
1st Vice President:	Lisa Hudson
2nd Vice President:	Bonnie Collins
3rd Vice President:	Becky Davis
Corresponding Secretary:	Donna Riehl
Recording Secretary:	Sandy Padrick
Operations Treasurer:	Lori Roop
Welfare Treasurer:	Linda Caton
Welfare:	D'Lynn Phelps
Parliamentarian:	Bobby Kellner
Membership:	Diane Murtha
Co-Reservations:	Londa Gemeinhardt
Co-Reservations:	Kelly Roth
Luncheons:	Liz McKendrick
Programs:	Vacant
Hospitality:	Valerie Rydell
Bazaar Chair:	Sherri Funk
Ways & Means:	Pattie Jones
	Deann Reff
Newsletter:	Kelley Otto
Publicity:	Tracy Neal
Special Events:	Alisa Armstead
	Cordelia Williams
Historian:	Sara Kopf
Tours:	Therese DeSanto
Thrift Shop Liason:	Mary Ellen Lyon



Honorary & Advisory Board Members

Honorary President:	Marilyn Wald
Honorary Vice President:	Rebecca Sylvester
Senior Air Force Advisor:	Pamela Rassmussen
Senior Army Advisor:	Madelaine Darden
Senior Navy Advisor:	Susan Jaskot
Senior Marine Advisor:	Gail Baczkowski
Senior Civilian Advisor:	Jennie Allen
6th ASG Advisor:	Iris Stubblefield

Next Years' Governing Board and Executive Board

Our nominating committee has been hard at work putting together a slate of officers for next year's Executive Board. If you haven't already volunteered for one of these positions, you still have an opportunity to help our organization. The parliamentarian and all committee chairs are appointed by the new president immediately following the elections. The nominating committee is putting together a list to help the president fill these jobs. Please note that these phone calls will not be made for a while, so if your future is uncertain, you will have time to prepare. Contact any member of the nominating committee if you would like to be considered.

The committee members are Pam Rasmussen, Gail Baczkowski, Jennie Allen, Donni Hodgkins, Linda Caton, and Bobbie Kellner

BOARD VACANCY

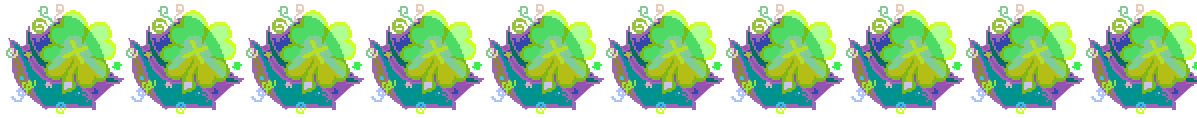
We desperately need a Programs Chairperson. This position is an important part of our board. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer please contact:

Donni Hodgkins
0711-674-2091

HOSPITALITY

As members of OCSC, we are very important to one another. In light of that, we would like to remember each other on important occasions. If you know of anyone who is ill, injured, had a death in the family, recently given birth, or experienced any other momentous or sad occasion, please let me know, so that I can send a card. Please call Valerie Rydell at 0711-674-0770 or email rydellm@aol.com.

Valerie Rydell
Hospitality Chair

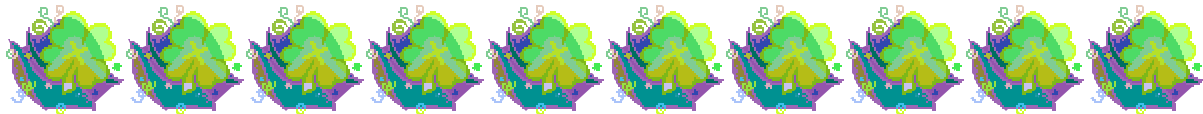


ARE YOU READY FOR SPRING?

The OCSC Spring Bazaar is right around the corner. In just a few weeks, over 75 international vendors will come to Patch for the shopping experience of the year. Please sign up to make a food/drink donation, or you can help by volunteering your time in many ways the weekend of March 21-23.

The Patch Thrift Shop has exceeded its 2002/2003 welfare goal for the OCSC Board year. Congratulations to all of the employees and volunteers for a fantastic job. The Thrift Shop has four valuable employees every year who make the shop a great outlet for used items. Every year, applications are accepted for the positions of Manager, Head Cashier, Asst. Cashier, and Bookkeeper. All OCSC members (excluding Governing Board members) are encouraged to apply. Please stop by the Thrift Shop and pick up an application if you are interested in working in the shop and serving your community. It's a very rewarding way to become involved in a welfare organization and meet new people. Applications are accepted by the shop manager in March and April. Interviews and training are in May. Thanks to all of you for supporting the Thrift shop through your patronage and donations.

Bonnie Collins,
2nd Vice President



THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Patch Thrift Shop Is Getting Ready For Spring!

The Thrift Shop is changing seasons! We will stop accepting winter consignments on February 28, and will begin accepting spring and summer consignments on March 13. The bi-annual bag sale will start on Saturday, March 1, so come in and fill up on goodies! Our next Saturday open date will be March 1 (bag sale premiere!). Also in March, we will be closed on Thursday, March 20, due to the bazaar. Stop in and ask about our special PCS'ing consignment days. As always, we are looking for volunteers who appreciate good benefits! Located in the lower level of Washington Center, we are open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (consignments accepted until 1:00 p.m.), same hours for the Saturday open dates. For more information call DSN 430-5510/civ 680-5510.

Mary Ellen Lyon -Thrift Shop Liaison



Parliamentary Update

Our constitution and bylaws changes adding our new Scholarship Committee have been approved and are being submitted to the Private Organizations Office. Look for these documents at the Thrift Shop Bulletin Board.

Contact
Bobbie Kellner with questions.



WELFARE REPORT

As of February 2003, the Welfare Committee has recommended the disbursement of \$35,485 to the Governing Board, who has been more than happy to approve each recommendation. The following is a list of local private organizations that have benefited from these moneys.

24-Hour Marathon
Army Community Services
AWAG local Conference
Cub Scouts
Dental Clinic
Girl Scouts
Hispanic Heritage Month
PAHS French Club
PAHS Model United Nations

PAHS Music Booster Club
PAHS Prom Committee
PAHS Year Book
Patch Elementary School PTSA
Piranhas Swim Team
Robinson Elementary School PTSA
Stuttgart Little League
Stuttgart Wellness Center
Teens Against Tobacco Use
USO



WELFARE DISBURSEMENTS FOR JANUARY 2003

Piranhas Swim Team
Fisher House Foundation Landstuhl
Eurpoean PTSA
Patch Elementary School - AAR
The Class of 2004
Teens Against Tobacco Use (PAHS)
Cub Scout Pack 324
PAHS Music Booster Club
Robinson Elementary School - AAR

BABYSITTER RESOURCE LIST

The babysitter resource list will be available at the monthly luncheons. Questions? Contact Diane Murtha at murtha123@hotmail.com or CIV 0711-120-8654 DSN 430-8842.

PATCH HIGH SCHOOL

PTSA needs volunteers for next year's board! Interested people can contact Becky Davis via email at becky.davis2@us.army.mil

Patch High School 4th Annual Follies
March 29th

Student Acts & Performances

Auditions: Dates and times to be posted at the high school

Patch High School College Fair
May

If you are interested in representing your college, please contact Tracy Watson
0711- 993- 1288.

Audrey Hepburn wrote this poem
when she was asked to
share her "beauty tips."
It was read at her funeral
years later.

**For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.
For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.
For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers
through it once a day.
For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never
walk alone.
People, even more than things, have to be restored,
renewed, revived,
reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.
Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will
find one at the end of
each of your arms.
As you grow older, you will discover that you have
two hands; one for
helping
yourself, and the other for helping others.**

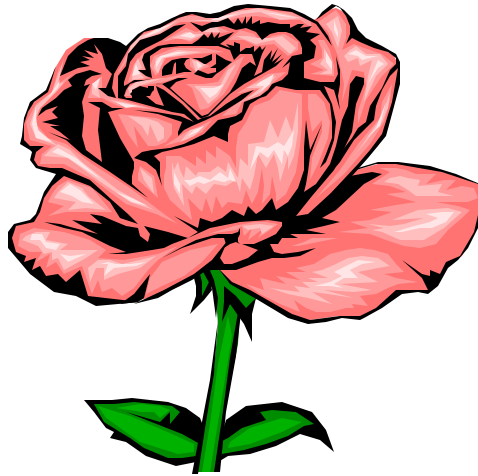
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have 202 members! Additions since the printing of the roster are available at the functions. All rosters that have not been picked up in person have been mailed. Dues are now only \$15.00! Anyone wishing to participate in Crystal Bingo in April **MUST** join by March. Applications are available at the ACS, Thrift Shop and our website and at all OCSC functions. Completed applications can be mailed to me, Diane Murtha, Membership Chairman (address below and on the application) through the Military Post Office (MPS). .

Diane Murtha
murtha123@hotmail.com

OR
CMR 480 BOX 2254
APO, AE 09128

2nd Hand Rose



"Champagne style on a beer budget"

Don't miss our guest speaker, Karen Oleksa, as she demonstrates how to turn flea market finds into priceless treasures. In addition, our very own Patch Thrift Shop will talk about and display some of the upscale items that can be

Date: Tuesday, 11 March 2003

Time: 10:30 a.m.

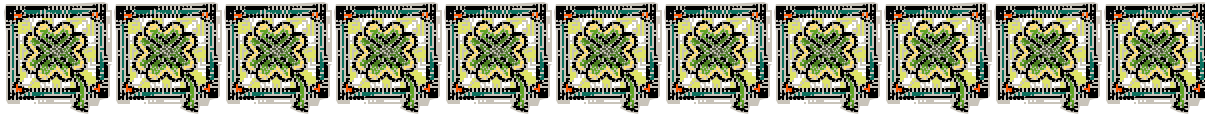
Place: Swabian Special Events Center

Price: \$11.00

**Menu: Spinach Fettuccini Alfredo, salad, bread
and chocolate cake**

**Please RSVP to Kelly Roth, 0711-620-4862, or
Londa Gemeinhardt, 0711-120-8461,
gemeinhard@aol.com, no later than March 4th.**

****Bring a six-pack of water or soda to the luncheon and receive a free "Ways and Means" raffle ticket! These donations will be used at the Spring Bazaar for volunteers and vendors.**



OCSC ON-LINE RESERVATION POLICY

OCSC luncheons are held on the third Tuesday of each month except for a few special events which will be appropriately announced. Reservations must be made for all OCSC functions. There may be other events where reservations are necessary. A reminder will be in the monthly issue of the "Grüss Gott" OCSC newsletter. Guests are welcome to attend and are eligible for door prizes and chance drawings, however, International Bingo is for OCSC members only. Infant pre-crawlers are welcome at all OCSC Luncheons.

RESERVATION/CANCELLATION: A committee has been appointed to take reservations. Reservations must be made by Tuesday preceding the event. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness by calling only between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Should you need to cancel your reservation; you must do so before 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the event. **Unless your reservation is cancelled by e-mail or phone before 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the event, you, the OCSC member, will be responsible for paying the full cost of the event.** If the cost is not paid, the member will not be allowed to attend the Bingo event and loss of membership privileges will be enforced until payment is made in full.

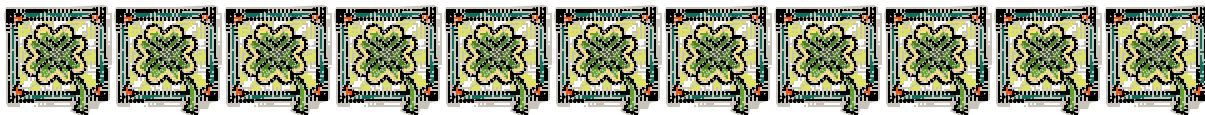
To Make Reservations Call or E-mail:

Londa Gemeinhardt 0711-1208461

gemeinhard@aol.com

or

Kelly Roth 0711-6204862



Permanent Reservation Policy:

Permanent Reservations can be made at any OCSC function. To put your name on the permanent reservation list you must pay **\$12** towards your **last** luncheon up front. If you aren't able to attend a luncheon, you must cancel prior to the deadline. If you don't cancel, an email message or phone call will be sent to remind you to pay for your lunch. If you don't send payment for your lunch that you missed prior to that month's reservation deadline, your prepayment will be applied towards your lunch and your permanent reservations will be canceled. If the lunch that you miss is less than \$12 the difference will be considered a donation to the club. This new policy is to help you, the member keep from having to pay for multiple missed lunches!



OCSC Spring Bazaar!

Hey everyone, come on out and have fun at the Spring Bazaar. We will have over 80 vendors selling everything you ever wanted or needed to take home with you when you leave Europe.

Help out by volunteering your time, sign up with Laurie Menzel by phone or email. We still need lots of help during the bazaar weekend. Or if you can't come for a shift, bake or buy something to donate to the Hospitality Sub-Committee. Vegetable trays, fruit trays, water, etc. are still needed anytime during the bazaar. Don't forget about buying and selling raffle tickets. This is a major fundraiser for the OCSC and you win such great stuff.

To volunteer at the Bazaar contact the Senior Spouse in your organization or Ija Dupras at 07031-467586.

Our committee has been working hard to bring the best bazaar ever to Stuttgart. Come out and spend money, have fun, and get to know everyone.

See You There,
Sherri Funk
Bazaar Chairperson

OCSC Spring Bazaar Volunteer Information

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone #_____

Email_____

Group Affiliate_____

I would like to volunteer for the following times (please circle the date and time):

Day	<u>Times</u>			
<u>Set-up Days</u>				
Mon 3/17	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 -1830	1830 - 2100
Tues 3/18	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 -1830	1830 - 2100
Wed 3/19	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 -1830	1830 - 2100
Thu 3/20	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 -1830	1830 - 2100
Bazaar				
Fri 3/21	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 - 1900	
Sat 3/22	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 - 1900	
Sun 3/23	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 - Finish	1700 - Finish
<u>Tear Down</u>				
Mon 3/24	0930 - 1230			

Area I would like to work(please circle) :

Finance Office

Credit Cards

Volunteer Desk

Misc/Floater

Security

Volunteer Coordinator contact information

Laurie Menzel, (0711) 440-8424
or email – lmenzel@att.net



THE GREAT ACS "IRON SWAP"



If you are PCS'ing back to the states and would like to trade your 220v iron for an 110v iron, come by ACS. We have an abundance of 110v irons (new) in our loan closet but we need 220v irons to lend to new arrivals. Your 220v iron must be clean and in good working condition to qualify. Quantities are limited so stop by soon. If you have any questions please contact Kelley at DSN 430- 5274 or CIV 0711- 680- 5274.



TRIPS & TOURS

Due to the uncertainty of the current world situation, we have decided not to pursue other OCSC trips at this time. Once things have settled, OCSC will look at organizing future trips.



The following letter was submitted by Ilfigenija Dupras to the OCSC. It is a "thank you" to everyone who helped the project "Journey To Smile". Please allow a few extra moments for the pictures to download.

The "Journey to Smile" of a thousand miles begins with a single step...

The word "Journey" in many languages sounds different and every one of us has a different association about this word. In Lithuanian language, it would sound „Kelione“. It doesn't matter how you pronounce this word, what matters is what this word means to you. Meaning of the word "Journey" for me always has a beginning and then continues with intention, love, care, support, help, friendship, smile, happiness, satisfaction, and many other feelings that don't end.

My story about this "Journey" started before last Christmas, on 14th of November 2002, when I had got an e-mail from Jonathan Floss, the Vilnius Hash House Harrier Hash Master (nickname "Enforcer"), who also is the Vice-Consul at the American Embassy in my home country Lithuania. I would like to introduce to you part of his e-mail:

"The Hash Mismanagement Committee wants to do something good this holiday season. While the amount of beer and flour we buy helps support many Lithuanian businesses, we want to do something for some Lithuanian kids who have less than ideal lives. We decided to work with the Alytus Children's Home -the largest children's home in Lithuania (about 170 kids). Many of the kids actually have parents, but were abandoned or removed from their families due to the parents' "asocial" problems. Although the Hash is somewhat limited in what it can do for the children there, the Home has mentioned that it is always looking for clothing for the kids." Jonathan ("Enforcer")

From the moment I got his e-mail, I certainly knew, even though I am faraway from my country, that I too want to do something good for Lithuanian kids, something like "Journey to Smile." Honestly, I didn't know how to start it as I didn't have any experience with charitable work such as this. I didn't know how to make the first step. I understood that I cannot make this "Journey" without help from others and support as well. My nearest and first advisers were my husband John and my friend Sherri Funk. They gave me some suggestions and following those, I started my "Journey to Smile." All it took to get this idea moving in the right direction was an e-mail to the Officers and Civilians Spouses' Club (OCSC) and the Club's president, Donni Hodgkins, asking about some help. She immediately joined this "Journey." Soon I was introduced to Julie Ryan and her great Thrift shop team. That team did most of the job collecting donations for the Alytus Children's Home.

I treasure their kindness and enthusiasm. I also attained support with donated clothes from Iris Stubblefield and German American Womens' club; I appreciate that. When all this collecting job was done, right after Christmas, this donation from the American Military community from Stuttgart area started a thousand mile Journey to Lithuania, to American Embassy, where after that it was delivered to the Alytus Childrens' Home by Jonathan and other embassy's people. I appreciate Jonathan's pictures with comments he took in Alytus Children's' Home.





Jonathan's comments (5th of February, 2003). *"First 2 photos are from last Saturday. The shirts and sneakers are from your boxes (the stuffed animals from another box sent by a Lithuanian-American Foreign Service Officer). The older boys were especially happy about the French soccer shirt ("PSG" logo on it) and the real sports sneakers -they go to school with local kids. [We just had time to open 2 boxes together. The deputy director will go through the rest later.] The two twins are quite talented artists; however, the deputy director (the young-looking women to the back right of the photo) said that because these twins have parents, they will not be able to get any money from the government to go to the Art Academy. The parents are alcoholics, so no money is available from them. Jurate, the deputy director, said it is one of the unfortunate quirks of Lithuanian law. The 3rd photo is from December when one of the Marines dressed as Santa Claus"*



Going to the end of my story, I want to express to each of you who helped me make this "Journey to Smile" my hearty thank-you and respect for your open minds, open hearts, honest help, and for everything that you have done sharing your love, care and thoughts with my home country kids. Even knew that it couldn't replace a Mother's love and a parent's warmth and care, at least it made them SMILE and let them know that somebody, who they didn't know, cares and thinks about them.

I am really blessed living around so nice, hearty and friendly people as you are, my friends.

Sincerely Yours,

Ilfigenija Dupras